



850 Otter Creek Park Road Brandenburg, KY 40108

from Louisville phone: 574-4583 • fax: 574-4584

outside Louisville phone: 502/942-3211 • fax: 502/574-4586

e-mail: ottercreek@loukymetro.org website: www.ottercreekpark.org

directions from downtown Louisville

From I-65 south, take Gene Snyder Freeway west. Exit at the Dixie Highway (31-W) junction. Go south 14 miles to Kentucky Highway 1638. Turn right into park at the sign.



Illustrations by Richard David Healy, Jr.
Text by J. Bryan Lewis and Richard David Healy, Jr.

Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor Louisville Metro Council

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	Habitat	Forestedge	Open, Forest,	Urban			Field, Marsh	Farmland	Woodland edge, Urban	Forestedge	Field, Marsh	Oil Sunflower, Nuts, Insects Forest, Open, Edge, Urban	Field, Farmland	Forest, Open		Field, Open, Edge	Open, Forest	Coniferous forest, Open	Forest, Open, Edge	Forest, Open	Forest Folge		
	Feed	Suet, Fruit, Insects	Nectar		Nectar	Cracked Corn, Mixed Seed	Mixed Seed	Mixed Seed	Mixed Seed, Insects	Suet, Insects, Fruit	Mixed Seed	Oil Sunflower, Nuts, Insects	Mixed Seed	Sunflower Seed, Suet,	Insects	Mixed Seed, Insects, Fruit	Mixed Seed, Insects, Fruit	Mixed Seed, Thistle	Cracked Corn	Suet	Inserts Supt	1,000	
	Pts Season	100 Winter	40 Summer		100 Fall/Winter	60 Winter	80 Winter	100 Winter	40 Year-round	Summer	100 Winter	20 Year-round	100 Spring/Fall	20 Year-round		40 Winter	20 Winter	100 Winter	Year-round	80 Winter	100 Winter		
	Pt		40			9	8	10	4	8	10	20	10			wc 40			8				
	Bird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Ruby-throated	Hummingbird	Rufous Hummingbird	Rusty Blackbird	Savannah Sparrow	Snow Bunting	Song Sparrow	Summer Tanager	Swamp Sparrow	Tufted Titmouse	Vesper Sparrow	White-breasted Nuthatch		White-crowned Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow	White-winged Crossbill	Wild Turkey	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-rumped Warbler		
	>															p							
	Habitat	Forest, Edge	Edge, Open	Field	Edge, Forest	Farmland, Urban	Open, Field, Urban		Edge, Open		Field, Edge	Edge	Coniferous forest edge	Forest		Farmland, Shortgrass field	Field, Open	Urban, Farmland		Open, Edge, Forest	Field, Edge	Water	Farmland Urban
	Feed	40 Year-round Oil Sunflower, Suet, Insects	Fruit, Insects	80 Year-round Mixed Seed, Insects	Mixed Seed, Fruit, Insects	Mixed Seed, Cracked Corn	40 Year-round Mixed Seed, Suet,	Insects, Bread	Sunflower Seed, Fruit,	Insects	Mixed Seed	Mixed Seed, Insects	Suet, Fruit, Insects	60 Year-round Sunflower Seed, Suet,	Insects	100 Year-round Mixed Seed, Insects	20 Year-round Oil Sunflower, Thistle Seed	Year-round Mixed Seed, Fruit,	Insects, bread	Mixed Seed, Insects, Fruit	Mixed Seed	100 Year-round Cracked Corn	20 Year-round Mixed Seed, Cracked Corn Farmland, Urban
	Pts Season	Year-round	100 Year-round	Year-round	40 Year-round	100 Year-round	Year-round		Winter		60 Year-round Mixed Seed	60 Winter	100 Winter	Year-round		Year-round	Year-round	Year-round	(40 Summer	100 Spring/Fall Mixed Seed	Year-round	Year-round
	Pts	9	100	8	9	100	9		8		99	9	100	99		90	20	9	Ç	9	90	100	20
	Bird	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Eastern Meadowlark	Eastern Towhee	Eurasian Collared Dove	European Starling		Evening Grosbeak		Field Sparrow	Fox Sparrow	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Hairy Woodpecker		Homed Lark	House Finch	House Sparrow	:	Indigo Bunting	Lincoln's Sparrow	Mallard Duck	Mourning Dove

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>	Bird	Pts	Pts Season	Feed	Habitat	✓ Bird		Pts	Pts Season	Feed	Habitat
	American Crow	99	Year-round	Cracked Corn	Open, Forest,		Northern Bobwhite	88	Year-round	Cracked Corn, Mixed Seed	Field, Woodland edge
					Farmland, Urban	_	Northern Cardinal	20	Year-round	20 Year-round Mixed Seed, Insects, Fruit	Forest, Edge, Farmland,
	American Goldfinch	20	Year-round	Thistle Seed, Oil Sunflower	Open, Edge						Urban
	American Tree Sparrow	09	Winter	Mixed Seed	Open, Edge	_	Northern Flicker	99	Year-round	60 Year-round Insects, Sunflower Seed,	Forest, Open
	Baltimore Oriole	100	100 Summer	Fruit, Suet, Nuts, Nectar	Forest, Open, Edge					Suet	
	Black-capped Chickadee	100	100 Winter	Oil Sunflower, Mixed Seed	Forest, Edge	_	Northern Mockingbird 6	99	Year-round	Suet, Fruit, Insects	Edge, Open, Urban
	Blue Grosbeak	100	100 Summer	Oil Sunflower, Mixed Seed	Open, Edge		Orchard Oriole	100	100 Summer	Fruit, Suet, Nuts, Nectar	Open, Edge, Woodland
	Blue Jay	20	Year-round	Mixed Seed, Nuts, Fruit	Open, Forest	4	Pileated Woodpecker	100	100 Year-round	Sunflower Seed, Suet,	Forest
	Brewer's Blackbird	100	100 Winter	Mixed Seed	Shortarass field, Farmland					III SECTS	
	Brown Greener	100		Z pt	Forest Edge	4	Pine Siskin 6	99	Winter	Oil Sunflower, Thistle	Edge, Open
	Brown Thrasher	2 &	Vear-round	Vest-round Mixed Seed Suet	Woodland edge	4	Pine Warbler	100	100 Year-round	Suet, Oil Sunflower, Fruit,	Coniferous forest
				יאווארמ הריבת, ס						Mixed Seed	
	Brown-headed Cowbird	9	Year-round	Mixed Seed	Open, Field, Farmland, Urban	4	Purple Finch	9	40 Winter	Oil Sunflower, Thistle	Forest, Open
	(0	-	(LE L	Red Crossbill 1	100	100 Winter	Mixed Seed, Thistle	Coniferous forest, Open
	Canada Goose	100	100 Year-round	Cracked Corn	Water, Field	1	200000000000000000000000000000000000000	5		to o ottobal book books	
	Carolina Chickadee	20	Year-round	Oil Sunflower, Mixed Seed	Forest, Edge	_ (2 5	מומ		roiest, cuge, orban
	Carolina Wren	20	Year-round	Inserts Mixed Seed	Forest Edge	-	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	Winter	Oil Suntlower, Insects, Suet	Coniferous forest
			5			CE.	Red-headed Woodpecker	8	Year-round	Sunflower Seed, Suet,	Forest, Open
	Chipping Sparrow	40	Summer	Mixed Seed	Woodland, Open, Urban			9		IIISECUS	-
	Common Grackle	9	Year-round	Mixed Seed, Fruit	Field, Forest, Farmland	- 1	d Blackbird				Marsh, Open
	Common Rednoll	100	Winter	Mixed Seed Thistle	Fdae	¥	Rock Dove 6	8	Year-round	ے	Farmland, Open, Urban
	Dark-eyed Junco	20	Winter	Mixed Seed, Cracked Corn	Woodland edge	<u> </u>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	9	Spring/Fall	Sunflower Seed, Insects,	Open, Forest
	Dickcissel	8	Summer	Mixed Seed	Field						

INTRODUCTION

ecause a thick field guide listing all the birds of North America can be overwhelming, this booklet is designed to help you identify the seasonal birds likely to show up at Kentucky bird feeders. Ideally, this booklet will complement your comprehensive field guide when you visit Otter Creek Park or other wildlife refuges.

Over 360 species of birds are reported in Kentucky; of those, 71 are considered visitors to feeding stations. Birds that don't frequent feeders, such as robins, are not included here.

Feeding Stations

While some people create attractive bird feeders to enhance the beauty of their yards and gardens, feeding birds does not have to break your bank. In fact, it can be as easy as scattering seeds on the ground. A tree stump, flat rock, or simple wooden platform on a chest-high pole can all serve as fine feeding stations.

Brushy habitats and water sources will increase the number of birds visiting your feeding station. Many species are uncomfortable feeding in the open, fearing predators such as hawks, American Kestrels and Loggerhead Shrikes. Water can be provided by many methods, such as simply filling a flowerpot saucer or inverted garbage can lid. To prevent drowning, water sources should be shallow with low rims and cleaned often to prevent disease.

Rare Birds

Please report rare or accidental birds such as Brewer's Blackbirds, Common Redpolls, Eurasian Collared Doves, Evening Grosbeaks, Red or White-winged Crossbills, Rufous Hummingbirds, Snow Buntings, and Black-capped Chickadees.

More Information

If you need help identifying a bird, contact Otter Creek Park's staff naturalist.

> phone • 502/574-4583 e-mail · ottercreek@loukymetro.org

KEY

Each bird's habitats, seasons, food preferences and total length in inches are included in this booklet, along with interesting facts.



year-round residents



winter residents; may migrate in spring or fall



summer breeders; may extend into spring or fall

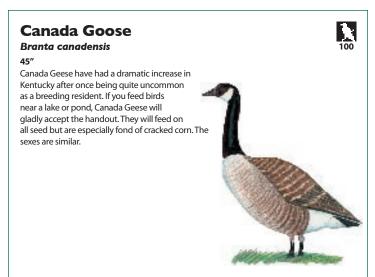


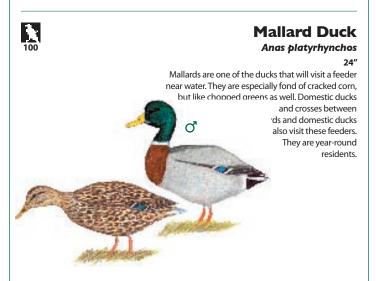
primarily migrants

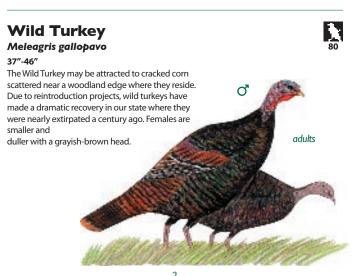


O male • O female

Each bird has been assigned from 20 to 100 points, reflecting how frequently it turns up at feeding stations. The most common species are worth 20 points; the rarest, 100. You can use this point system for a friendly competition by comparing total values.







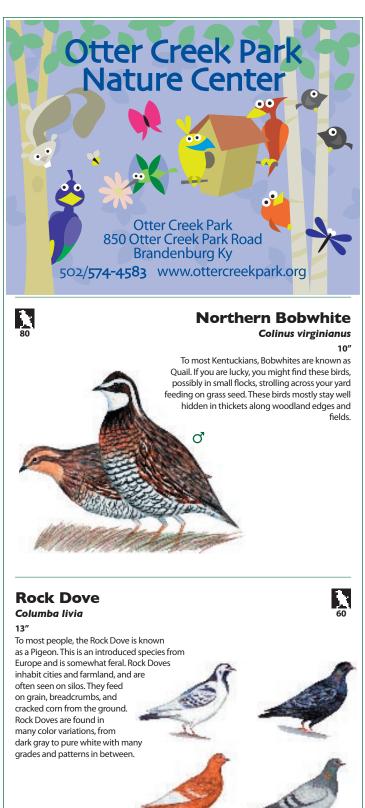
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ACCIDENTAL BIRDS AT KENTUCKY FEEDERS

Variety	Natural Habitat	Recorded
Green Violet Ear	Mexico	Western Kentucky in summer
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Western United States	Western Kentucky
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Northern United States	Eastern Kentucky in winter
Black-headed Grosbeak	Western United States	Louisville in winter
Green-tailed Towhee	Western United States	Central City in winter
Clay-colored Sparrow	Western United States	A few winter records
Harris's Sparrow	Midwestern United States	Several records
Oregon and Pink Sided Juncos	Western United States, subspecies	Several winter records
Lesser Goldfinch	Southwest United States	Elizabethtown in winter
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	St. Louis, introduced	Paducah
Orange Crowned Warbler	Regular migrant in Kentucky	Louisville in winter
	31	





Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

12"

This is one of the most common birds noted at feeders. Mourning Doves are often seen feeding in yards, eating scattered seed. They often form large flocks of up to 40 birds or more. When doves are disturbed, they take flight with a whistling sound from their wing-beat. Both male and female are similar but the female is slightly duller with a shorter tail.





Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto

12"

This species was introduced into the Bahamas from Eurasia and has expanded its range northward.

The first ones in this state were reported in Southern and Western Kentucky in 1999. In time, this bird will probably be found throughout the state. This dove is about the size of a Mourning Dove, but is a little bulkier and lacks the pointed tail. They are found in small towns and farmland where they feed on seeds. The sexes are similar.

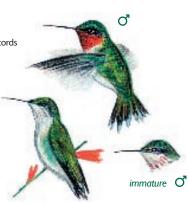




Ruby-throated Hummingbird Archilochus colubris

3.66"

This is the most likely species to visit your hummingbird feeder in our state. Most records have been made from late April into October. They occur in many habitats including suburban backyards. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are the only hummingbirds to breed in Kentucky.



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Watch It.

The Environmental Education Center in the Jefferson County Memorial Forest offers bird enthusiasts an opportunity to watch a wide variety of birds (including Kentucky's own state bird, the Northern Cardinal) native to this area.

This unique setting also offers guests a warm place to continue their bird-watching into the winter months.

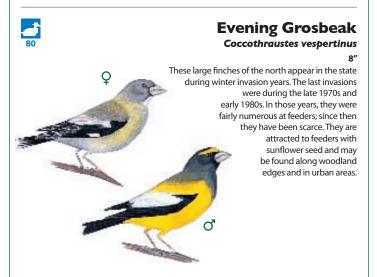
The bird blind is open to the public on a limited basis. Contact the Welcome Center to check dates and times of operation, or to make a reservation.

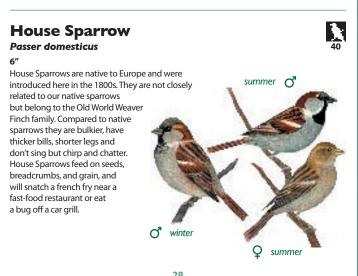


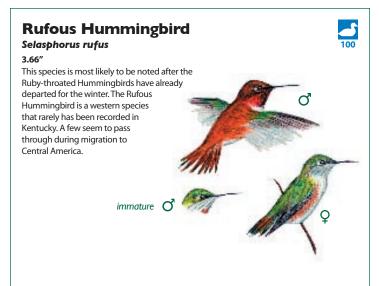
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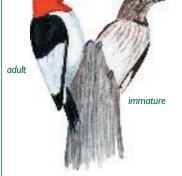


Red-headed Woodpecker

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

9.5"

This beautiful bird is fairly common in summer; Numbers are fewer in winter. They are quite scarce at feeders; however, they will visit feeding stations to snatch a sunflower seed or bit of suet on rare occasions. Red-headed Woodpeckers are found in a variety of habitats associated with old, dead trees.

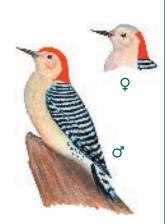


Red-bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

9.5

Many who see this beautiful bird have mistakenly called it a "Red-headed" Woodpecker; however, "Red-capped" Woodpecker would be more appropriate. The name Red-bellied is due to a small touch of red found on the belly that is not always visible. This species can be seen feeding on suet and sunflower seeds. Red-bellied Woodpeckers are found in a variety of woodlands and suburban parks.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Sphyrapicus varius Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are a northern species which

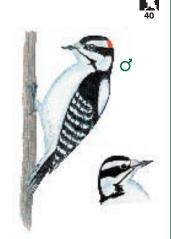
visits our state as a fairly common transient or less common winter resident. Occurrence is from late September to April. Found along woodland edges, these birds may occasionally be seen on suet feeders. They are so named because they drill horizontal rows of holes in sap-bearing trees, which they will regularly visit to take a sip.





Downy Woodpecker Picoides pubescens

These black and white woodpeckers, which are seen year-round, are not much larger than the House Sparrow. Downy Woodpeckers are common at feeding stations where they are fond of suet and sunflower seed. They are fairly tame woodpeckers and are found in woodlands, often near human dwellings, parks and farmland. Note the similarities to the Hairy Woodpecker.

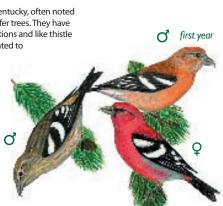


White-winged Crossbill

Loxia leucoptera

tends to be more solitary.

This is a rare winter visitor to Kentucky, often noted feeding in sweetgum and conifer trees. They have also been noted at feeding stations and like thistle seed. This species is closely related to the Red Crossbill and shares many of the same habits and habitats, but the White-winged Crossbill





Common Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

This northern finch appears irregularly during winter in Kentucky. When they do visit, they form flocks with Pine Siskins first year and Goldfinches. Redpolls will come to feeders near open brushy habitat where they feed on small seed.



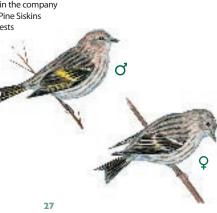
Pine Siskin Carduelis pinus

and extend as far south

is from October to April.

These tiny finches can be found in the company of Goldfinches on tube feeders. Pine Siskins breed in northern coniferous forests

as Northern Kentucky. They appear in the state during winter and can be abundant during invasion years. In other years, they are scarce. Occurrence



House Finch

Carpodacus mexicanus

6"

This newcomer to Kentucky was first reported in the state during the late 1970s. Native to the western United States, many birds were captured and sold illegally to pet dealers on the East Coast in the 1940s. Released birds quickly took up residence in the wild and have expanded their range westward. They are found at many feeders with other finches and are especially fond of thistle and sunflower seed.





Red Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

6.25"

These northern finches are rare visitors to Kentucky, primarily noted feeding on pine seeds in pine trees. They have been noted feeding on seed at feeders. Both Crossbill species have modified beaks designed to extract seeds from cones. They accomplish this by forcing the scales of the cone apart with the bill and lifting out the seed.



Hairy Woodpecker

Picoides villosus

9.5

This Woodpecker is nearly identical to the smaller Downy Woodpecker. The Hairy Woodpecker has a larger, thicker bill and lacks a touch of black on the outer white tail-feathers. The Hairy Woodpecker also is fond of suet and sunflower seeds. They occupy dense woodlands and tend to be more shy than Downy Woodpeckers.



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Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

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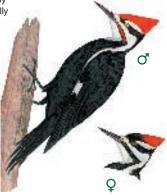


Flickers are one of our largest woodpecker species and are our only woodpecker with a brown back. When in flight, the striking yellow undersides of the wings and distinct white rump can be seen. Flickers feed on suet and will come to feeder trays for sunflower seed. Often feeding from the ground, Flickers can be seen in woodlands, parks, open fields and farmland.

Pileated Woodpecker ♀ Dryocopus pileatus

17'

This is our largest woodpecker species and nearly the size of a Crow. These magnificent birds usually stay in deep forest but occasionally visit open areas with scattered trees. They are very shy but will come to feeding stations for a sunflower seed or suet.







Horned Lark

atten

Eremophila alpestris

This is our only true lark. They can be found in flocks in open country with little or no vegetation. Occasionally, they turn up at feeding stations where they will feed on spilled seed on the ground.



20 **Blue Jay** Cyanocitta cristata



When this noisy bird appears at your feeder, it often runs the other birds away. They enjoy sunflower seed and cracked corn, often feeding on tray feeders as well as from the ground. Jays can be found in woodland parks and suburban lawns. They will also take advantage of unattended dog food. The sexes are similar.



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For more information call 502/456-8152, e-mail parkspersonnel@loukymetro.org,

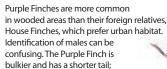
or download application forms at www.metro-parks.org.

Metro Parks is an equal opportunity employer.

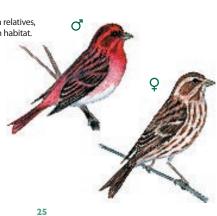


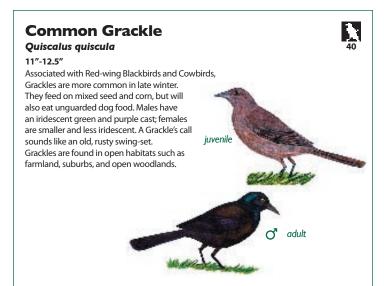
Purple Finch Carpodacus purpureus

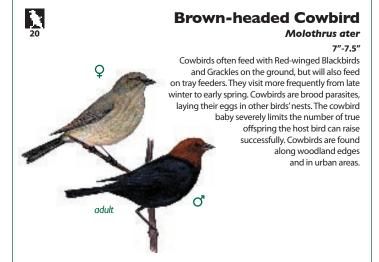


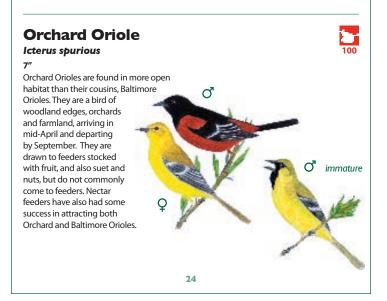


the House Finch has less red and has streaks on the sides. House Finches breed in the state, while Purple Finches are winter visitors from the northern states. Occurrence is from October to May.









Black-capped Chickadee Poecile atricapilla



oeche u

Black-capped Chickadees have a northern home range and have only recently been confirmed in Kentucky. Their northern range extends south along the Appalachians as far as Tennessee. Black-capped Chickadees look very similar to Carolina Chickadees, but are slightly larger, have a buff color on the sides, and a light patch on the wings.

Black-capped Chickadees have a slurred call of "chick-a-dur-dur." The sexes are similar.



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Carolina Chickadee

Poecile carolinensis

4.75"

Carolina Chickadees are found in forested and semi-open habitat where you can hear them calling "chick-a-dee-dee-dee." They are closely related to the Tufted Titmouse and share its hyperactive nature. Chickadees often associate in loose flocks with Titmice and Nuthatches.

They stop to feed on suet as well as sunflower seed at feeders.

The sexes are similar.



Tufted Titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor

6.25

These hyperactive birds are abundant at most feeders and are fond of black-oil sunflower and suet. Titmice are often seen grabbing a sunflower seed, taking it to a perch, and breaking it open. They are seen in woodlands and suburbs.



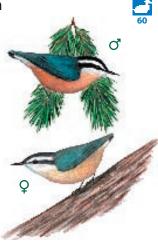
immature

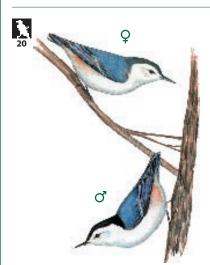
Red-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta Canadensis

4.5"

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a northern species which visits from early September to early May. It is often found in pine trees, whereas the White-breasted Nuthatch is found mainly in deciduous trees. Red-breasted Nuthatches will come to suet feeders and also enjoy sunflower seed. The nasal sounding call of this nuthatch is slower and higher-pitched than that of the White-breasted Nuthatch.





White-breasted **Nuthatch**

Sitta carolinensis

Nuthatches could possibly be mistaken for small woodpeckers because they creep up and down trees. The White-breasted Nuthatches enjoy feeding on suet and sunflower seed. These birds share similar habits and habitats as Chickadees and Titmice. They feed in loose flocks in mixed woods and suburbs. The call is a nasal-sounding "yank-yank."

Brown Creeper Certhia americana

5.25"

This small brown bird with a white belly and a narrow curved bill is primarily a winter visitor to our state. Often confused with woodpeckers, these birds cling to trees with their feet and use their tail feathers as a brace. They strictly creep up trees and may be found feeding on suet. They are found in open woodlands. The sexes are similar.



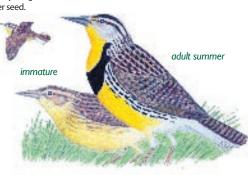
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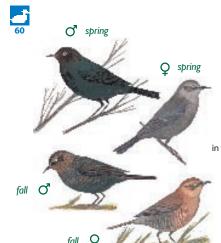
Eastern Meadowlark

Sturnella magna

Meadowlarks are not true larks, but belong to the blackbird family. They are ground feeders of grain and other seed.

They are found in open country and grasslands and are quite common, but seldom visit feeding stations.





Rusty Blackbird

Euphagus carolinus

8.75"-9 .25"

The Rusty Blackbird might be mistaken for a small Common Grackle. They feed on grain and other seeds on the ground. These birds are about the size of a Red-winged Blackbird with a call similar to that of a Grackle. Rusty Blackbirds are usually seen in wooded swamps and urban areas with other blackbirds. They are less frequent than other common blackbirds.

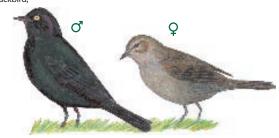
Brewer's Blackbird Euphagus cyanocephalus

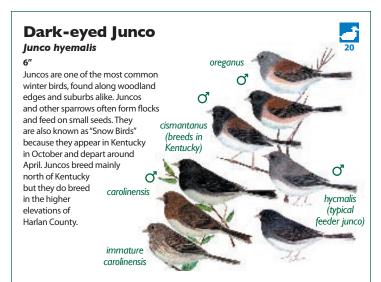
8.75"-9 .25"

This is a rare bird from western farmlands. It may be seen feeding on the ground and is more common in Southern and Western Kentucky. Brewer's Blackbird has a shorter, thicker bill compared to that of the more common Rusty Blackbird,

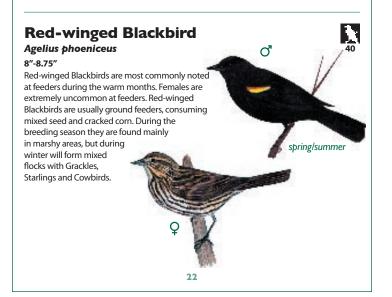
for which it is easily mistaken. Males have a glossy-green and purplish sheen to the head. Females have a dark eve

and are brown.









Carolina Wren Thryothorus Iudovicianus adult This active bird feeds on suet and seed. Their habitat includes woodlands and bushy edges, as well as human occupied areas. They especially like to build nests in hanging baskets. Their distinctive call "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle" is heard all year long.



Golden-crowned Kinglet Regulus satrapa

The diminutive Golden-crowned Kinglet is a bird of the forest, preferring coniferous forest to deciduous forest. Kinglets, which are constantly in motion, may on occasion patronize suet feeders. This small bird is often found in woodland edges with Chickadees and Titmice.

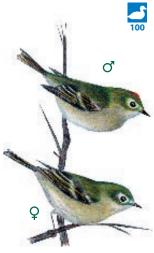


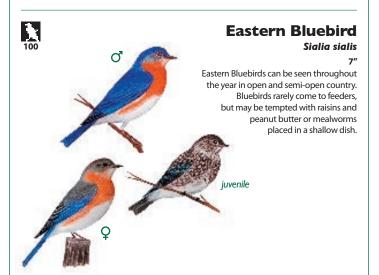
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

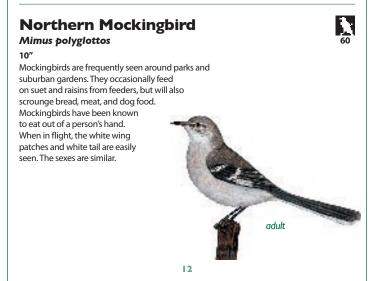
Regulus calendula

4.25"

Unlike the Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglets prefer deciduous woodlands.
They may rarely be attracted to suet feeders.
The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is much less common than the Golden-crowned Kinglet during winter, but can be fairly common during migration.
They tend to be most visible in April, May and October. The red cap of the male is visible when excited.







Swamp Sparrow Melospiza georgiana

E 7E"

Swamp Sparrows are found in fields with brushy growth, especially if the field is wet, or near a body of water. They are common winter residents in the state but tend to be scarce at feeders.



White-throated Sparrow

Zonotrichia albicollis

6.75"



These sparrows can be seen in small flocks feeding on the ground with other sparrows. They eat millet, cracked corn, and sunflower seed. White-throated Sparrows are more of a woodland species than most Sparrows. They are found along mixed woodland edges with brushy habitat. They occur in Kentucky from October to May.

White-crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia leucophrys

Zonotricnia leucopnry

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The White-crowned Sparrow looks similar to the White-throated Sparrow. It can be identified by a pinkish bill and lack of a distinct white throat-patch. White-crowned Sparrows can be found in open brushy country and farmland. You might say the White-throated is the woodland sparrow and the White-Crowned is the country sparrow. Occurrence is from October to May.



Song Sparrow

Melospiza melodia

6.25"

This is one of our most common sparrows. Song Sparrows eat small seed from the ground and feed in small numbers. They tend to be less gregarious than other sparrow species. Like the Cardinal, this bird can be seen feeding until dark. Song Sparrows can be found in almost any kind of semi-open habitat, urban or rural. The sexes are similar.





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Lincoln's Sparrow Melospiza lincolnii

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Resembling a small Song Sparrow with buffcolored breast and fine chest streaks, Lincoln's Sparrow may rarely show up at feeding stations, especially if located in or near a brushy field. Primarily, they have been noted in Kentucky from April to May and from September to November (a single feeder record is from February 9). The sexes are similar.



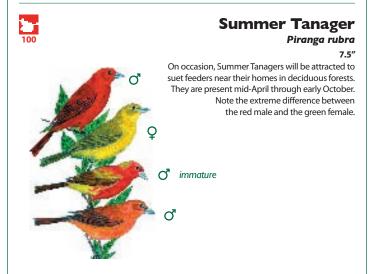


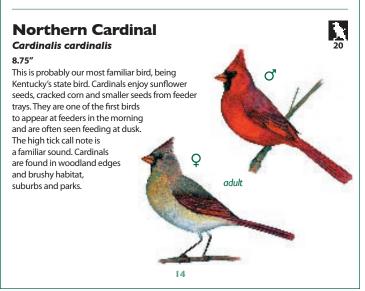
Brown Thrasher Toxostoma rufum 11.5" Brown Thrashers are common summer residents but their numbers drop dramatically during the winter. Thrashers are found in brushy thickets and woodland edges. They will feed on seed tossed on the ground and possibly suet.















Savannah Sparrow Passerculus sandwichensis

5.5"

The Savannah Sparrow is mainly a transient species in the state but is found in winter in brushy fields and swamps (rarely in summer). Savannah Sparrows resemble Song Sparrows but with more streaks on the body, shorter tail, and yellow-green between the eye and bill. They are scarce at feeders.

The sexes are similar.

Fox Sparrow Passerella iliaca

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This large, russet-colored Sparrow can be seen on the ground, scratching for seed during its winter visits to Kentucky. It occurs from late October to March. Its feeding habits are similar to those of the Towhee, remaining near the edges of brushy woodlands.

Their numbers tend to fluctuate from year to year. The sexes are similar.



American Tree Sparrow

Spizella arborea

This winter visitor arrives later than most sparrows and departs earlier, returning to its nesting ground in northern Canada. It can be spotted from late October to March, and may be identified by a single spot on its breast. The Tree Sparrow is found in brushy woodland edges and fields and can usually be seen after a good snow. It will feed on the ground with other sparrows and use feeder trays. The sexes are similar.



immature

Chipping Sparrow Spizella passerina

Chipping Sparrows are common in yards and gardens during summer, but normally spend winter south of Kentucky. They feed on seeds spilled on the ground beneath feeders. Tree Sparrows, which are larger and have a spot in the middle of the breast, are often mistaken for them. Chipping Sparrows are occasionally seen at feeders during winter, and become quite numerous during the months of March and April.

Field Sparrow Spizella pusilla

As its name suggests, this small sparrow with a long tail is usually found in open fields and brushy areas. It feeds in flocks on scattered seed. Field Sparrows will patronize feeder trays. The best field marks are the white eye-ring and pinkish bill.

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Rose-breasted Grosbeak

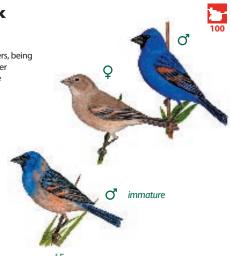
Pheucticus Iudovicianus

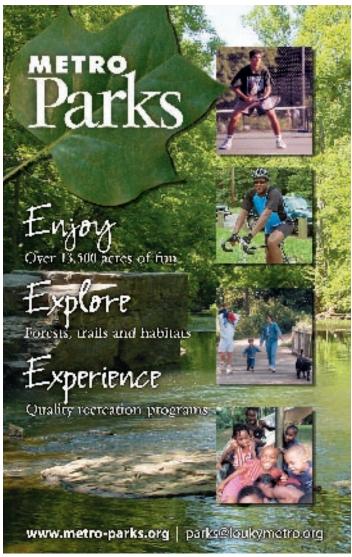
This species is known as a transient throughout Kentucky with the exception of Harlan County, where it breeds. In the spring, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrive in late April and are usually gone by the third week in May. In autumn, it appears from early to mid September through the third week of October. They can be seen at feeders during migration periods and will feed on sunflower seed.

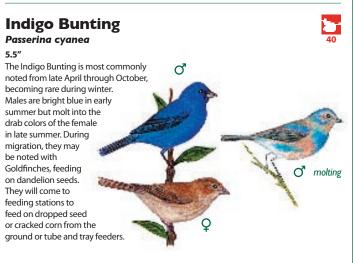
Blue Grosbeak

Passerina caerulea

This is a rare bird to visit feeders, being attracted by black oil sunflower and mixed seed. Numbers are the highest from early May through July but lingering through September. This species tends to be localized throughout the state in open farmland with brushy edge habitat.







Dickcissel Spiza americana 6.25" Dickcissels are primarily summer residents with a few winter records. During winter, they may be associated with House Sparrows at feeders outside their summer farmland habitat. Dickcissels have the appearance of miniature Meadowlarks.

